

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 854

By Turner M

A RESOLUTION to commend Danny Todd for his actions in the relief effort following Hurricane Katrina.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are honored to formally recognize those individuals whose unchecked valor and determination bring honor to this State; and

WHEREAS, Danny Todd is one such individual, whose heroic efforts to bring aid and comfort to the residents of New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina are worthy of recognition; and

WHEREAS, born in Carroll County to the late Curry Todd, Sr., and Virginia Todd and raised in Memphis, Danny Todd attended Treadwell School until his graduation in 1968, whereupon he attended the State Technical Institute of Memphis; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Todd joined the Fire Department; following a steady rise through the ranks, he was promoted to Driver in 1982, and Lieutenant in 1984; and

WHEREAS, a leader among his peers, Danny Todd was elected to the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Local 1784 Executive Board in 1977 as a Battalion Representative. After serving as the Secretary/Treasurer for Local 1784 from 1980 to 1994, he rendered sterling service as the local's President from 1994 until 2000; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Todd was elected to the IAFF District 14 Vice Presidency in 1995, and has served that post with acumen and alacrity for more than ten years. Dedicated to his fellow fire fighters, he was instrumental in the institution of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan for Memphis Fire Division employees in 1998; and

WHEREAS, on the morning of August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina roared ashore along the Gulf Coast, causing catastrophic damage along the coastlines of Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Less than a month later, the Gulf Coast was again battered when Hurricane Rita

made landfall on September 21, bringing destruction to the coastal regions of Louisiana and Texas; and

WHEREAS, as the Vice President of IAFF's 14th District, it was Danny Todd's responsibility to organize relief efforts for the many victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, a responsibility he fulfilled with utmost aplomb, skill, and expediency; and

WHEREAS, commanding a relief team composed of fire fighters from Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Arkansas, Florida, California, New York, Massachusetts, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Vancouver, British Columbia, Mr. Todd oversaw the delivery and dispersal of food, clothing, and financial assistance to thousands of residents of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas, including more than five thousand fire fighters and their families; and

WHEREAS, in addition to distributing 3,511 \$500 disaster relief assistance checks, for a total of \$1.75 million, to IAFF members scattered throughout the Gulf Coast, Danny Todd and the brave men and women serving under him also assisted the American Red Cross in the distribution of more than \$1.5 million in debit cards to the Katrina's victims; and

WHEREAS, during the five weeks he spent in the Gulf Coast region, Mr. Todd oversaw the execution of 161 rescue missions during which he and his fellow fire fighters provided an incident command staff and communications for relief workers; evacuated those stranded by flood waters; provided food, medicine, ice, clothing, shelter, medical care, counseling, decontamination, and behavioral health care to those in need; and the building materials, transportation, and repair crews necessary for rebuilding damaged homes; and

WHEREAS, his efforts and the tireless efforts of the fire fighters in his relief crews saved hundreds of lives and provided hope, aid, and comfort in a time of great need; and

WHEREAS, during his weeks in the Gulf Coast, he derived much-needed strength and fortitude from thoughts of his loving family. Danny Todd is most thankful for the love and support given him by his wife, Deborah; his sons, Michael and Andy; his grandsons, Conner and Grayson; and his brothers, Henry Todd and State Representative Curry Todd, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, Danny Todd's role in the relief efforts following Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita was nothing less than valiant, and he should be properly recognized for the comfort and assistance he brought to so many lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor Danny Todd for the tireless and
unswerving dedication he displayed during the relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and
Rita, bestow upon him our deepest gratitude for the invaluable aid and assistance he gave to
thousands along the Gulf Coast, and offer our fondest wishes for his every future success and
happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.